

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-22 (cancelled).

23 (new). Oral pharmaceutical or dietary composition containing at least one short-chain fatty acid or salt, ester and/or amide thereof, in combination with a complex sugar and/or dietary fibre in which the complex sugar and/or dietary fibre is selected from inulin, pectin, dextrin, maltodextrin or derivatives thereof and with one or more pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

24 (new). Composition according to Claim 23 in which the short-chain fatty acid is a linear or branched C₁-C₅ monocarboxylic organic acid.

25 (new). Composition according to Claim 23 in which the short-chain fatty acid is selected from: acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, and isovaleric acid, preferably butyric acid.

26 (new). Composition according to Claim 25 in which the short-chain fatty acid is butyric acid.

27 (new). Composition according to claim 23 in which a quantity of from 5 to 50% by weight of the short-chain fatty acid is included.

28 (new). Composition according to claim 27 in which a quantity of from 10 to 30% by weight of the short-chain fatty acid is included.

29 (new). Composition according to claim 23 in which a quantity of from 5 to 50% by weight of the soluble dietary fibre is included.

30 (new). Composition according to claim 29 in which a quantity of from 10 to 30% by weight of the soluble dietary fibre is included.

31 (new). Oral pharmaceutical or dietary composition according to claim 23 in tablet, capsule, granule and/or micro-granule form.

32 (new). Oral pharmaceutical or dietary composition according to claim 23, characterized in that it is an intestinal controlled-release composition.

33 (new). Oral pharmaceutical or dietary composition according to claim 23, containing a gastro-resistant coating.

34 (new). Method for the treatment of intestinal disorders, inflammatory disorders, and pathological conditions of the intestinal mucous membrane and for the preventive or limiting treatment of intestinal neoplasia which comprises the administration of a pharmaceutical or dietary composition comprising a short-chain fatty

acid in combination with a soluble dietary fibre in which the complex sugar and/or dietary fibre is selected from inulin, pectin, dextrin, maltodextrin or derivatives thereof.

35 (new). Method according to Claim 34 in which the short-chain fatty acid is a linear or branched C₁-C₅ monocarboxylic organic acid.

36 (new). Method according to claim 34 in which the short-chain fatty acid is selected from: acetic acid, propionic acid, butyric acid, and isovaleric acid, preferably butyric acid.

37 (new). Method according to claim 36 in which the short-chain fatty acid is butyric acid.

38 (new). Method according to claim 34 in which a quantity of from 5 to 50% by weight of the short-chain fatty acid is included.

39 (new). Method according to claim 38 in which a quantity of from 10 to 30% by weight of the short-chain fatty acid is included.

40 (new). Method according to claim 34 in which a quantity of from 5 to 50% by weight of the soluble dietary fibre is included.

41 (new). Method according to claim 40 in which a quantity of from 10 to 30% by weight of the soluble dietary fibre is included.

42 (new). Method according to claim 34 in tablet, capsule, granule and/or micro-granule form.

43 (new). Method according to claim 34 characterized by intestinal controlled release.

44 (new). Method according to claim 34 including a gastro-resistant coating.